Claims

1. A support matrix for communication, wherein the matrix is at least four-dimensional, each matrix dimension includes at least one selection list, and the selection lists include at least a first initiator list, a second market segment list, a third product list, and a fourth trading scenario list.

2. The matrix according to claim 1, characterized in that each selection list includes a number of elements, which can be individually marked for selection or unselection, where each marking of one of the elements can preferably be stored and/or recalled.

3. The matrix according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that each element is scalable.

4. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the elements of the initiator list can be used to select at least between buyer and/or seller.

5. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the elements of the market segment list can be used to select at least one market segment, e.g. in the chemical field, in the form of the pharmaceutical industry, food industry, detergent industry, lubricant industry, and/or the like.

6. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the elements of the product list can be used to select at least one product group and/or a product, e.g. in the chemical field, in the form of oleo chemicals, petrochemicals, anorganic chemicals, fine chemicals, and/or other chemicals.

7. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the elements of the trading scenario list can be used to select at least one trading scenario, e.g. an auction, including a real time auction and/or supported auction, a bulletin board, a direct business connection, and/or the like.

8. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by means of at least one services list, the elements of which can be used to select a service provider, in particular for an administrative and/or logistical function.

9. The matrix according to claim 8, characterized in that the service provider to be selected can be a liquidating company, a transportation company, a logistics company, a filling company, a packing company, a bank, an insurance company, a laboratory, and/or the like.

10. The matrix according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the services list can be selected by means of the trading scenario list or represents a fifth dimension of the matrix.

11. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by means of at least one company list, which can preferably be selected by means of the market segment list, the product list, the trading scenario list, and/or the services list.

12. The matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by means of at least one product specifications list, the elements of which can be used to select product specifications e.g. quantity, condition, packaging, and/or the like.

13. The matrix according to claim 12, characterized in that the product specifications list can be selected by means of the product list.

14. A method for operating a trading center using a matrix according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that
the matrix is prepared by an operator,
the matrix is called up by an initiator, preferably via the Internet,
the called matrix is processed by the initiator, preferably at the initiator's workstation,
the processed matrix is sent to the operator, preferably via the Internet, and
the sent matrix is processed by the operator.

15. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the operator includes an Internet platform operator and/or at least a service provider.

16. The method according to claim 14 or 15, characterized in that at least a first element of the selection lists is selected by the initiator, at least a second element of the selection lists is unselected by the initiator, and/or at least a third element of the selection lists is not processed by the initiator, where the trade is routed to the first

element by the operator, the trade is not routed to the second element by the operator, and/or the third element is incorporated into the trade.

17. The method according to claim 14 or 15, characterized in that the operator deliberately preserve the anonymity of the initiator.

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The claims relate to a situation, which according to Rule 39 of the PCT, does not require a search to be conducted. Taking into consideration the fact that the claimed subject discloses either only nontechnical circumstances or generally known features for its technological implementation, the Search Examiner could not determine any technical object, the attainment of which could possibly contain an inventive activity. It was therefore not possible to make meaningful determinations regarding the prior art (Art. 17(2) (a) (i) and (ii) PCT; Guidelines Section B, Chapter VIII, 1-6).

The Applicant is therefore notified that claims of inventions for which no International Search Report has been conducted normally cannot be the subject of an International Preliminary Examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). In its capacity as the agency responsible for International Preliminary Examinations, the EPA will not as a rule execute any Preliminary Examination for subjects for which no Search has been conducted. This also applies to the case in which the claims have been amended after receipt of the International Search Report (Art. 19 PCT), or for the case in which the applicant submits new claims in the course of the process according to Chapter II PCT. After entry into the regional phase before the EPA, however, an additional Search can be executed in the course of the Examination (see EPA Guidelines C-VI, 8.5), provided that the deficiencies, which gave rise to the declaration according to Art. 17 (2) PCT, have been eliminated.